



METROPOLITAN  
TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

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## *Memorandum*

TO: Legislation Committee

DATE: April 1, 2005

FR: Executive Director

RE: Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee (EDAC): 2005/06 Work Plan

The Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee has been working on its 2005/06 Work Plan over the past several months; the attached draft is a result of their efforts. EDAC is expected to take final action on the work plan at its April 7, 2005 meeting.

Pursuant to MTC Resolution 3516, each MTC advisory committee reports to the Legislation Committee on its annual work plan. EDAC members will be at your April 8, 2005 meeting to present its final 2005/06 Work Plan.

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Steve Heminger

# **Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee**

## **Draft Annual Work Plan 2005**

### **Issues and Concerns**

#### **1. Access to Transportation Services**

- The lack of uniform rules and regulations governing transportation services for the elderly and persons with disabilities creates inequities within the Bay Area and makes inter-agency trips more difficult.
- Older transit systems, such as BART, need to be upgraded to be more disabled-friendly.
- Using public transit can be physically challenging for frail seniors.
- Paratransit service is inadequate (response times, availability, etc.) in non-urban areas.
- Agencies need to embrace the spirit of the ADA, not just comply with the law.
- Inflexible bus routes, low service frequencies and limited hours restrict the ability of the elderly and persons with disabilities to reach essential destinations such as medical appointments and grocery shopping.
- Transit agencies need to get more direct feedback on their services from the elderly and persons with disabilities.
- Transit services that are vital for the elderly and persons with disabilities are often reduced or eliminated because transit agencies focus their resources on high volume routes.

#### **2. Pedestrian Safety**

- Pedestrian safety, while getting more attention in recent years, is still a major and continuing concern for the elderly and persons with disabilities.

#### **3. Elderly Drivers**

- The lack of an effective transition process for the elderly from being a driver to a non-driver (a) encourages some individuals to continue driving (beyond when it is safe) and, (b) increases social isolation by making it harder for individuals to shift to public transit.

- Some older drivers could continue to drive safely if roads and vehicles were re-designed to better meet their needs.

#### **4. Transportation Signage**

- Inadequate transportation signage often makes it difficult for the elderly and persons with disabilities to drive, use transit, walk and use wheelchairs.

### **Strategies**

1. Begin work towards improving the status of the elderly and persons with disabilities in the 2008 RTP. The desired results are (a) a stand-alone goal for the elderly and disabled, and (b) an appropriate level of funding for needed programs.

#### **2005 EDAC Actions:**

- Build strong, effective coalitions with like-minded groups through an EDAC-sponsored regional workshop and follow-up actions.
2. Improve coordination of transportation resources—held by social service agencies, schools, faith-based groups, senior services, disabled services and others—to improve mobility for the elderly beyond ADA paratransit services.

#### **2005 EDAC Actions:**

- Host a regional workshop on transportation coordination
- Assist MTC in obtaining funding and implementing a pilot program to share vehicles and other resources in a local community.
- Update and distribute MTC's regional list of non-ADA transportation providers.

3. Increase the awareness of problems facing older drivers and partner with other groups to create solutions to these issues.

**2005 EDAC Actions:**

- Work with partners, such as senior advocacy organizations, on a transition and support program for older drivers to help them shift to other mobility means.
- Begin an education and awareness effort aimed at planners on issues such as streets/roads signage that will help older drivers.
- Based on lessons learned from the above actions, work with MTC to submit a grant application to the State OTS for a program to address senior driver and safety issues.

4. Increase attention on the issues and concerns of the elderly and persons with disabilities in MTC's planning and service processes.

**2005 EDAC Actions:**

- Formally participate in the development of MTC's Community-Based Transportation Plans.
- Formally participate in the signage study as part of the MTC Transit Connectivity Plan.
- Continue participation in the development of the MTC Transportation/Land Use Platform.
- Continue work with MTC staff to improve transportation information for elderly and disabled on MTC Web sites.

5. Improve services for persons with disabilities.

**2005 EDAC Actions:**

- Investigate the effectiveness of existing city and county ADA paratransit complaint/appeal processes. Based on the findings, advise the Commission on possible regional improvements to this vital component of ADA services.

6. Increase EDAC's impact by improving the committee's communication and decision-making processes.

**2005 EDAC Actions:**

- Improve communication with Staff and Commissioners:
  - Individual members will establish personal contact with appointing commissioner(s).
  - EDAC will make a presentation to the Legislation Committee outlining the 2005 EDAC Work Plan.
  - EDAC will communicate formally with the Commission by sending written memos through staff. As needed, EDAC will follow-up by appearing in-person before the appropriate committee. EDAC members will work with staff on presentation approaches.
  - The EDAC staff liaison will provide follow-up information on all memos sent to the Commission as part of the monthly staff report.
  - EDAC members will work with the staff liaison to identify the best MTC sources of information on targeted topics.
- Improve process of making recommendations
  - EDAC will decide which issues to pursue through its working groups.
  - Each working group will be responsible for further discussion/research, with staff assistance as needed, and the drafting of positions and recommendations.
  - The working group chair will work with staff to finalize each position or recommendation before discussion and approval by EDAC.
  - EDAC will submit approved positions and recommendations to the Commission.